
Tapirira obtusa comb. nov. (Anacardiaceae)

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ABSTRACT. The discovery that one of the syntypes cited by Engler under the name *Tapirira marchandii* is also the type for an earlier, validly published name, *Mauria obtusa* Benth, necessitates the transfer of *Mauria obtusa* to *Tapirira*. The new combination *Tapirira obtusa* takes priority over *Tapirira marchandii* Engler.

A review of the literature and specimens of *Tapirira* (Anacardiaceae) has revealed the existence of an earlier name, which has priority over *Tapirira marchandii* Engler.

The specimen "Schomburgk 892" [= *Robert Schomburgk series II* 892] is included in the list of syntypes cited by Engler (1876) under the original description of *Tapirira marchandii*. This is the same specimen as one of the two syntypes mentioned by Benth (1852) for his species, *Mauria obtusa*. Benth described two other species of *Mauria* in the same article. Two of the species, *Mauria multiflora* C. Martius ex Benth and *Mauria subjugata* C. Martius ex Benth, were later treated as synonyms of *Tapirira guianensis* Aublet by Engler (1876). However, Engler overlooked the third species of *Mauria*, *Mauria obtusa*, described by Benth (1852: 16) in the same article. Later authors were also apparently unaware of Benth's third *Mauria* species. The name *Mauria obtusa* is not listed in any of the editions of *Index Kewensis* or the *Gray Card Index*. In conclusion, the basionym *Mauria obtusa* has priority over the name *Tapirira marchandii*.

The syntypes of *Mauria obtusa*, *Robert Schomburgk II* 892 and *Richard Schomburgk* 1442, clearly agree morphologically with the other syntypes listed by Engler under the name *Tapirira marchandii*. These syntypes evidently belong in the genus *Tapirira*, not *Mauria*, because they are unisexual, the petals are imbricate, and the staminate pistillode and the pistil are both crowned by five styles. This is the typical condition of the flowers of *Tapirira*. *Mauria*, on the other hand, has bisexual flowers with a valvate corolla and a single style crowned by three sessile stigmas.

Benth (1852) wrote that he was aware of the affinity of his three taxa of *Mauria* to *Tapirira*

guianensis. (He actually published *M. obtusa* as "*Mauria* (Tapirioides) *obtusa*.") He probably misplaced these three species in *Mauria* instead of in *Tapirira* because of the incorrect fruit description and illustration in Aublet (1775). Aublet included a fruit from a different plant family in his description and illustrations of *Tapirira guianensis*.

The following is my proposed new combination and synonymy.

Tapirira obtusa (Benth) Mitchell, comb. nov.
Basionym: *Mauria obtusa* Benth, Hookers J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 4: 16. 1852. TYPE: Guyana, 1842–1843, *Robert Schomburgk II* 892 (lectotype, designated here, K; isoelectotype, NY). [*Richard Schomburgk* 1442 was probably collected from the same plant.]

Tapirira pao-pombo Marchand var. *major* Marchand in Warming, Vidensk. Meddel. Dansk. Naturhist. Foren. Kjøbenhavn 15: 59. 1873. TYPE: Brazil. Minas Gerais: Lagoa Santa, *Warming s.n.* (syntypes, C).

Tapirira marchandii Engler in C. Martius, Fl. Bras. 12(2): 379. 1876. Based on *Tapirira pao-pombo* Marchand var. *major* Marchand.

Tapirira peckoltiana Engler in C. Martius, Fl. Bras. 12(2): 379. 1876. TYPE: Brazil. Rio de Janeiro: Santa Gallo, *Peckolt* 348 (holotype, BR).

Tapirira pao-pombo var. *major* was placed in synonymy by Engler (1876) in his description of *Tapirira marchandii*. I agree with Barfod's (1987) taxonomic decision that *T. peckoltiana* and *T. marchandii* are the same species.

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Literature Cited

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Engler, A. 1876. Anacardiaceae. In: C. F. P. von Martius, *Fl. Brasiliensis* 12(2): 367–418.